

The lay of the land

Landscapes make up the final exhibit for the academic year at Bristol Community College's Grimshaw-Gudewicz Art Gallery.

Opening today with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. is "From the Landscape: Works by John Fazzino, Daniel Gottsegen, Brooke Hammerle, Mary Hughes."

The exhibition runs through June 30. The title "From the Landscape" refers to the ways in which each artist in this exhibition borrows, transforms, and utilizes elements or aspects of the landscape in their work.

For many artists, the urge to explore the natural world is almost as enduring as the will to work from the figure. Both are reflections of us — who we are, our best selves for ourselves. The natural world is a never ending resource of sight, sound, and color.

Mr. Fazzino makes works inspired by his life-long love of the garden. He states: "Gardening has been my passion for as long as I can remember. I am thrilled to have my hands in the earth, planting flowers and vegetables, and watching as they grow."

"The time I spend in gardens is as important to me as the time I spend in the studio. My mind is always engaged, as I look for ways that I can meaningfully integrate my work into the garden setting in general or into specific garden. I want my work to enliven a space, creating dynamic interactions or quiet moments."

Mr. Fazzino holds an MFA from the Swain School of Design/UMass Dartmouth program in Artisanry and BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. He is an adjunct professor of ceramics at Providence College

where he also oversees the ceramics studio. His business, Ceramics for the Garden, creates unique objects that are incorporated into the natural settings. He lives in Cranston, R.I.

For much of his life, Mr. Gottsegen has explored the wildness of the natural world, often spending extended periods of time immersed in the wilderness studying and experiencing it from both a scientific and personal perspective.

"I paint to explore and to express my relationship to the land, environment, material, and place. I do this because it is, and has always been, my most natural way of being in the world, and because of both my cultural heritage and my personal history. Painting for me is a physical and spiritual exploration. It is improvisatory, often even revelatory.

He continues, "Though the images, because of the process, reflect perhaps some the isolation and alienation that seems to me abundant today, my hope is that the work is in some way redemptive. For me this is the truth of my love of place, and my love and practice of painting always."

Mr. Gottsegen lives and works in Woodstock, Vt. He has an MFA from California College of the Arts, Oakland and San Francisco, and holds a BA from Brown University. Until 2005, he was associate professor of painting at UMass Lowell, and before that he was professor at California College of Arts and Crafts.

Ms. Hammerle turns her gaze to the landscape through the lens of a camera and seeks to create a balance between nature and abstraction. "Although I

Page 13 The Standard-Times, New Bedford, MA, Thursday, June 1, 2006

BCC: Lay of the land

CONTINUED FROM 13

visualize my images through the lens," she says, "my former background as a painter prevails in my concern for the formal elements that I find there, and the isolating and organizing of form and color for their own sake. My images create a world of spatial ambiguity, like mirrors, where surface and reflection become suspended between color and light, between the 'reality' of a photograph and the 'illusion' of a painting."

Ms. Hammerle has a BFA in photography from the University Without Walls. She has also done course work at Rhode Island School of Design, Art Students League, Academia De Belle Arts, Florence, and the Corcoran Art School. She is principal photographer for the Brown University Art History and Visual Art Department as well as the David Winton Bell Gallery. She lives and works in Providence, RI.

Ms. Hughes has written, "The origin of this body of work dates back to time spent in the west of Ireland, studying the landscape. Seemingly endless stone walls provided an integral part of the landscape, dividing field from field and field from road.

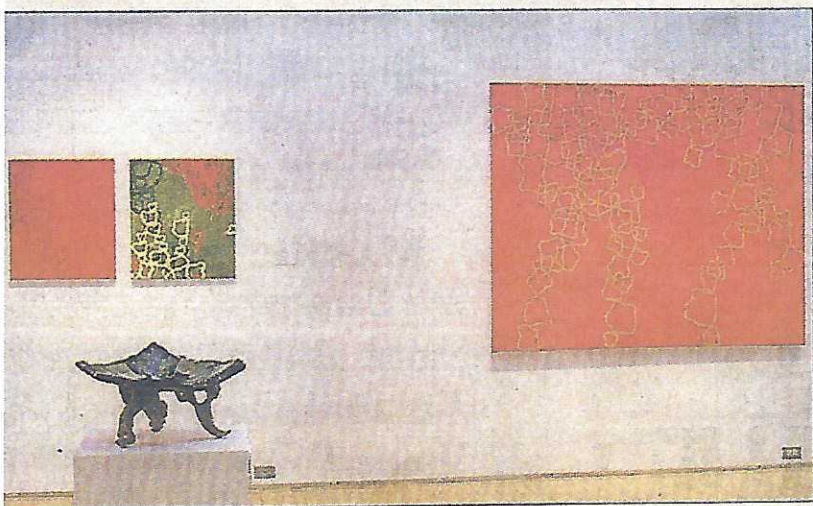
"The sense of history contained in these walls

caught my imagination and I found myself 'building' walls in paint. The stacking of shapes and the laying of paint was a meditative process that resulted in imagery that acted as a metaphor for the walls, a contemplative moment that reflects on the traces of the past and the vestiges of history."

Over time her works have become more abstract and less uniform. "Formal issues are explored through unexpected color juxtapositions, repetition, and transparency that retain a link to the natural world."

Ms. Hughes holds an MFA in fine arts from Massachusetts College of Arts, Boston, and a BFA from Boston University for the Arts. She has also taken courses with the Lacoste School Art, Lacoste, France. She received a Fulbright Scholarship to Ireland in 1997 and was awarded more recently an Artist's Grant to the Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, Vt. She lives and works in Boston.

The gallery is open 1 to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Admission is free. The gallery can be reached at (508) 678-2811, ext. 2631, or visit www.bristolcommunitycollege.edu/gallery/



"From the Landscape," in the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Gallery at BCC, includes a ceramic sculpture, "Pulsar 333," by John Fazzino, and paintings by Mary Hughes (from left to right) "Red Links on Red," "Ascension," and "Orange Links on Red."